Aflatoxin contamination in groundnut oil

1897. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is aflatoxin contamination in groundnut oil and related commodities;

(b) the potential risk on the health of the consumers;

(c) whether the side effects of aflatoxin contamination on health have been analysed;

(d) if so, the details; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No such instance has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e) The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has evaluated aflatoxin and the latest evaluation was carried out in 1987. On the basis of this evaluation, it has been recommended by that Committee that it should be at lowest level practically attainable. Accordingly, the PFA Rules, 1955 prescribe a maximum limit of aflatoxin, which is a crop contaminant, as maximum 0.03 mg/kg in any article of food. The limits prescribed are considered as no potential risk on the health of consumes.

Shortage of medicines in CGHS dispensaries

1898. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a severe shortage of medicines in the CGHS dispensaries in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the main suppliers of medicines are making inordinate delay in the supply of medicines to the CGHS dispensaries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to revamp the working of these Government medical stores and CGHS dispensaries so that Government employees do not face any hardship due to shortage of medicines?